A Chi-Square Analysis of the Fall 2013 Transportation Survey: Students at the University at Albany

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Landscape Management OP-9

Who manages Whiteface?

In review of the Stars OP-9, Jessie will provide the acreage requests from GIS for questions 1-5 providing we understand the differences of where an IPM, organic standard and conventional landscape practices are being implemented. Number 5 seems to be the total of 2-4. I’m not aware how much of an IPM approach we are currently using with four tier approach (Set Action Thresholds, Monitor and Identify Pests, Prevention, Control). I think we are doing a fair amount of this without formal documentation. I understand from Nancy that there is some organic fertilizers being used in the athletic area. I think most of the campus is managed using conventional landscape practices. We probably should back out the areas where green infrastructure is being used such as the Campus Center rain gardens, and other drainage basins etc. Our extensive irrigation system does not using potable water because the source is Indian Pond.

Area managed in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that uses a four-tiered approach

Area managed in accordance with an organic land care standard or sustainable landscape management program that has eliminated the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in favor of ecologically preferable materials

Area managed using conventional landscape management practices (which may include some IPM principles or techniques)

Total area of managed grounds

* A brief description of any land excluded from the area of managed grounds (e.g. the footprint of buildings and impervious surfaces, experimental agricultural land, areas that are not regularly managed or maintained)

Percentage of grounds managed in accordance with an IPM program

* A copy of the IPM plan or program

* A brief description of the IPM program

While there is no formal document, the grounds department adheres to IPM practices by assessing the presence of pests through baiting and monitoring to determine the level of infestation, determining the appropriate response (i.e. least toxic/minimal level of chemical use) and when spraying is necessary, only applying in targeted areas.

Percentage of grounds managed in accordance with an organic program

* A brief description of the organic land standard or landscape management program that has eliminated the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in favor of ecologically preferable materials

A brief description of the institution’s approach to plant stewardship

During construction and renovation projects, existing trees are protected with fencing extending to the canopy edge when possible. Air spading around root systems is encouraged to minimize disturbance and destruction during projects. Plants that have been identified to have pests or diseases are removed and new plantings are planted. New plantings are selected based on soil type and location. Locally grown nurseries are selected first when choosing plant material sources and invasive lists help guide preferred plantings. Some limitations and restrictions apply in this arena in order to meet the minority and women owed business (MWBE) requirements for the state.
A brief description of the institution's approach to hydrology and water use

As part of stormwater management, we try to use green infrastructure practices as much as possible such as porous surfaces for parking lots and sidewalks, rain gardens and green roofs. We utilize surface and subsurface stormwater infiltration systems that discharge stormwater to the soil. The campus irrigation system utilizes stormwater runoff that is collected at Indian Pond as the source of water for the system.

A brief description of the institution’s approach to materials management and waste minimization (e.g. composting and/or mulching on-site waste)

We have static piles on campus for lawn clippings, leaves, and tree debris.

A brief description of the institution’s approach to energy-efficient landscape design

Native plants and plant diversity is employed. 100% of the irrigation for all campus landscaped areas is from on-site stormwater retention pond.

A brief description of other sustainable landscape management practices employed by the institution (e.g. use of environmentally preferable landscaping materials, initiatives to reduce the impacts of ice and snow removal, wildfire prevention)

The university has begun to implement two strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of snow and ice. These include the use of porous surfaces reduces the use of salt and provide more traction and switching to a product that is 95% magnesium chloride (away for calcium chloride)

The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available

http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/4.environment.shtml

Landscape master plan link:  http://www.albany.edu/facilities/campusplanning/documents/LandscapeMasterPlan.pdf

Biodiversity OP-10

* Does the institution own or manage land that includes or is adjacent to legally protected areas, internationally recognized areas, priority sites for biodiversity, and/or regions of conservation importance? Yes

A brief description of the legally protected areas, internationally recognized areas, priority sites for biodiversity, and/or regions of conservation importance

No legally protected or internationally recognized areas but the Indian Pond area is very important area for the campus for biodiversity, wetlands and overall stormwater management.

* Has the institution conducted an assessment or assessments to identify endangered and vulnerable species (including migratory species) with habitats on institution-owned or –managed land? Yes

* Has the institution conducted an assessment or assessments to identify environmentally sensitive areas on institution-owned or –managed land? No

The methodologies used to identify endangered and vulnerable species and/or environmentally sensitive areas (including most recent year assessed) and any ongoing assessment and monitoring mechanisms

In 2008, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reviewed the NY Natural Heritage Program database for the Albany area. They provided a list of rare and state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats. The database is always being updated due to ongoing monitoring.

A brief description of identified species, habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas

Indian Pond is our retention basin that is vital for our stormwater management, sustainable landscaping program and is a biologically diverse habitat. It is located on the east side of campus.
A brief description of plans or programs in place to protect or positively affect identified species, habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas

Indian Pond is subject to the guidelines in our landscaping master plan and stormwater management plan.

The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available

http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/4.environment.shtml

6. The excluded land from the area of managed grounds includes most building footprints, parking areas, water features and wooded areas. Within existing building footprints, the campus has approximately 9,500 sf of green roof and several landscape planters located around the primary academic campus building. The campus has installed approximately 1.5 acres of porous asphalt and concrete pavement over recent years. The campus has a 5.0 acre pond used for stormwater management and irrigation. There is approximately 27.0 acres of wooded area on campus that consists of mixed mature deciduous and evergreen trees with a portion of the land having slopes 5-15%.

Optional Fields

11. The approach to plant stewardship on campus includes:
   - Specifying plants for landscape enhancements that will thrive in existing soil, solar, and moisture conditions while recommending predominantly native plant materials.
   - Inspect landscape areas weekly to review overall health, identify insect, disease, or moisture concerns, remove trash that may collect, prune liability branches, weed, and note significant concerns to manager.
   - Mulch, weed, and prune during ideal times of year to maintain growth and overall health conditions.
   - Identify trees that should be removed due to aging, decline, or storm damage that can be phased and coordinated over time with new plantings.
   - Create priority maintenance areas at the campus entries and inner academic core area out to the periphery where it becomes more naturalized.

12. The approach to hydrology and water use includes:
   - Maintain pond stormwater functionality, water level, quality, and water shed contribution for continued irrigation use on campus.
   - Limit new irrigation system installations and provide watering during only initial growing period of new plantings.
   - Mow lawns at higher heights to reduce mowing frequency, assist in weed control, and keep lawns green during summer months.
   - Consider and install rain gardens where application makes aesthetic, academic, and maintenance sense.

13. The approach to materials management and waste minimization includes:
   - Collect and consolidate all yard waste and debris in drop-off containers that are transported off-site locally so materials can be shredded, composted, and mulched for future use.
   - Limit bagging grass clippings during mowing season.
   - Provide commodity bins for mulch, topsoil, and stone to contain and minimize runoff potential.

14. The approach to energy-efficient landscape design includes:
   - Planting and maintaining trees adjacent to buildings that provide shade.
   - The campus has 9,500 sf of green roof area on existing buildings, consideration for future opportunities.
   - The campus recommends planting trees in or adjacent to parking areas to reduce heat island effect.
   - The campus has installed 1.5 acres of porous asphalt and concrete and considers future opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure.

15. Other sustainable landscape management practices includes:
   - Heritage Garden and initiatives to enhance pollinator planting areas
   - Continue Recycling initiatives and campus dining composting.
   - Specify recycled content in exterior amenities such as benches and trash containers.
   - NYP Lighting project where there is a consolidation of light fixtures to improve efficiency of electric consumption, light quality and consistent aesthetics.
   - Stormwater Coalition and green infrastructure guidelines
   - CDPHP/CDTA bike share station
   - Implementation of no smoking and tobacco free campus

16. No website URL about landscape programs but it may be considered to provide the stormwater and green infrastructure guidelines. We could create text regarding the landscape over the next year if it is considered a valuable initiative or incorporate it into the landscape master plan.